

Weare Conservation Commission
Mildred Hall Bequest Advisory Committee
Joint Meeting

A joint meeting of the Weare Conservation Commission and the Mildred Hall Bequest Advisory Committee was held on Saturday, January 28, 2006 at the Stone Building, Weare, N.H. Present were Conservation Commission members: George Malette, Paul Kosciuszek, Tom Carr, Steve Najia, Pat Myers, and John Ciampi and the Mildred Hall Bequest Advisory Committee members: Betty Straw, Ruth Jones, Terry Knowles, Rad Betts, and Sherry Burdick. The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Tom Carr, Chair of the Conservation Commission.

Terry Knowles read the language of the Mildred Hall bequest. The Conservation Commission has been using the name "Pine Hill Forest" when referring to the 600 acre parcel under consideration, however, the Hall bequest requires any project funded by the bequest to "honor [her] parents, Charles F. and Ethel Eastman." It has not yet been decided whether the 600 acre parcel will be part of the town forest or placed under conservation easement and that may impact the final name of the project. If the land is designated as town forest the proceeds of any timber cut on the parcel would be deposited in the town forest account. If the parcel is placed under conservation easement the proceeds of any timber cut would be deposited in the town's general fund. Steve Najia suggested the following language: "Pine Hill Forest in memory of Charles F. and Ethel Eastman."

The discussion next focused on the placement of a granite marker on the property in relationship to the main entrance and parking lot for the parcel. Betty Straw suggested the history of the parcel might be placed on the back of the marker. Sherry Burdick said it would be appropriate to include Mildred Hall's name on the marker as well.

Steve Najia moved as part of the acceptance of funding from the Mildred Hall bequest the Conservation Commission makes a commitment to placing a stone monument in a central area of the parcel, said monument to memorialize Charles F. and Ethel Eastman, the exact language to be determined at a later time. Second by George Malette. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

There is some confusion surrounding the exact amount of money being contributed by the Mildred Hall bequest. Terry explained the Committee has pledged to fund at least 51% of the \$1.5M *bond amount* and has further agreed to contribute \$800,000 for this purpose. The total cost of the parcel is \$1.8M and the Conservation Commission has pledged \$300,000 leaving the \$1.5M bond amount. The monument to be placed on the parcel will be paid for by the Mildred Hall bequest and will not come from the \$800,000, it will be paid for by the Hall

bequest at a later time. The remaining \$700,000 will be raised through taxation and will have an approximate 19 cent impact on the tax rate given the 20 year bond proposal.

Betty Straw stated the Committee wants some additional restrictions on the parcel to insure it is used as a hiking, biking, hunting area both now and in the years to come. Conservation Commission members explained the parcel will be the subject of a management plan to be included in the final documentation.

Steve Najia moved that at the request of the Mildred Hall Advisory Committee no motorized recreational vehicles (including but not limited to ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles) will be allowed into the Pine Hill Forest area. Second by Pat Myers. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

There will be a process to select the easement holder and the Conservation Commission is currently in conversation with the Piscataquog Watershed Association and the Forest Society.

Important dates: January 30 at 7:00 p.m. – Board of Selectmen will review the final language of the warrant; February 4 at 10:00 a.m. –deliberative session; March 4 and March 11 at 9:00 a.m. – site walks of the property.

There being no further business to come before the meeting it was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Terry M. Knowles, Clerk
Mildred Hall Bequest Advisory Committee